## **United States Embassy Skopje**

## Security Message for U.S. citizens: Demonstration and Counter-Demonstration March 15

## March 15, 2016

The U.S. Embassy in Skopje informs U.S. citizens that civil associations and opposition parties will stage a demonstration march tonight at 18:00. Demonstrators will gather in front of the Government building, walk past the Peoples Office of the President, continue to the Parliament and finish in front of the Constitutional Court on the river next to the Stone Bridge. 5000 participants are expected.

The "GROM" political party will organize a simultaneous counter-demonstration tonight as well at 18:00. It will take place in front of the Public Prosecutor's Office next to the court building. Between 3500 and 4000 participants are expected.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

## For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and <u>Macedonia Country Specific</u> Information.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Macedonia, located at Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje, at tel: (02) 310-2000 within Macedonia, or (+389) (2) 310-2000 internationally, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (02) 310-2000.

- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.